

II. RESPONSE

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 36-56 were pending at the time of the Restriction Requirement, with claims 1-35 having been previously canceled in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application. Claims 36 and 38-41 are amended herein, without disclaimer or prejudice, in view of the election made below. Claims 53-56 are withdrawn herein in view of the election made below.

In view of the above, claims 36-56 are pending after entry of the amendment, with claims 53-56 currently withdrawn from consideration.

B. Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect, *without traverse*, to prosecute what is believed to be the Group 31 invention, i.e, the group related to antigens and fragments of SEQ ID NO: 91. The claims have been amended to reflect this election.

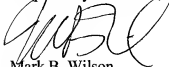
Pursuant to the statements of the Examiner in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants reserve the right to have claims directed methods of using the elected antigens and fragments examined in the present case once claims directed to the elected antigens and fragments are found to be allowable.

C. Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have submitted a complete reply to the Restriction Requirement dated November 2, 2006, and respectfully request favorable consideration of the claims in view of the amendments and statements contained herein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions relating to this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned Applicants' representative at (512) 536-3035.

Respectfully submitted,



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